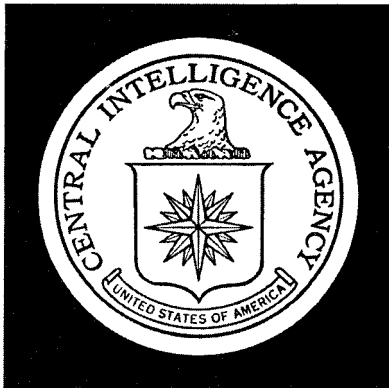


Top Secret

(5)

25X1



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

25X1

Top Secret

113

15 January 1967

Page Denied

25X1

Information as of 1600
15 January 1967

25X1

HIGHLIGHTS

25X1

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
No major encounters with enemy forces occurred over the weekend in any of the battalion-size operations in which US units are involved. A series of clashes between Communist and allied forces in I Corps resulted in substantial casualties for both sides (Paras. 1-2). Only sporadic resistance was met by US battalions sweeping through the Viet Cong "Iron Triangle" in Operation CEDER FALLS (Para. 3). US and GVN marines involved in Operation DECK HOUSE V have begun a tactical withdrawal from the delta (Para. 4). A US minesweeper was rammed and sunk by a Norweigen freighter in the shipping channel south of Saigon (Para. 5). North Vietnamese infiltration of South Vietnam trebled in 1966 (Paras. 6-9).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

25X1

According to the US Embassy, the preliminary draft constitution before the Constituent Assembly has been considerably softened to win Directorate approval with only one potentially serious point of controversy remaining (Para. 4).

25X1

25X1

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

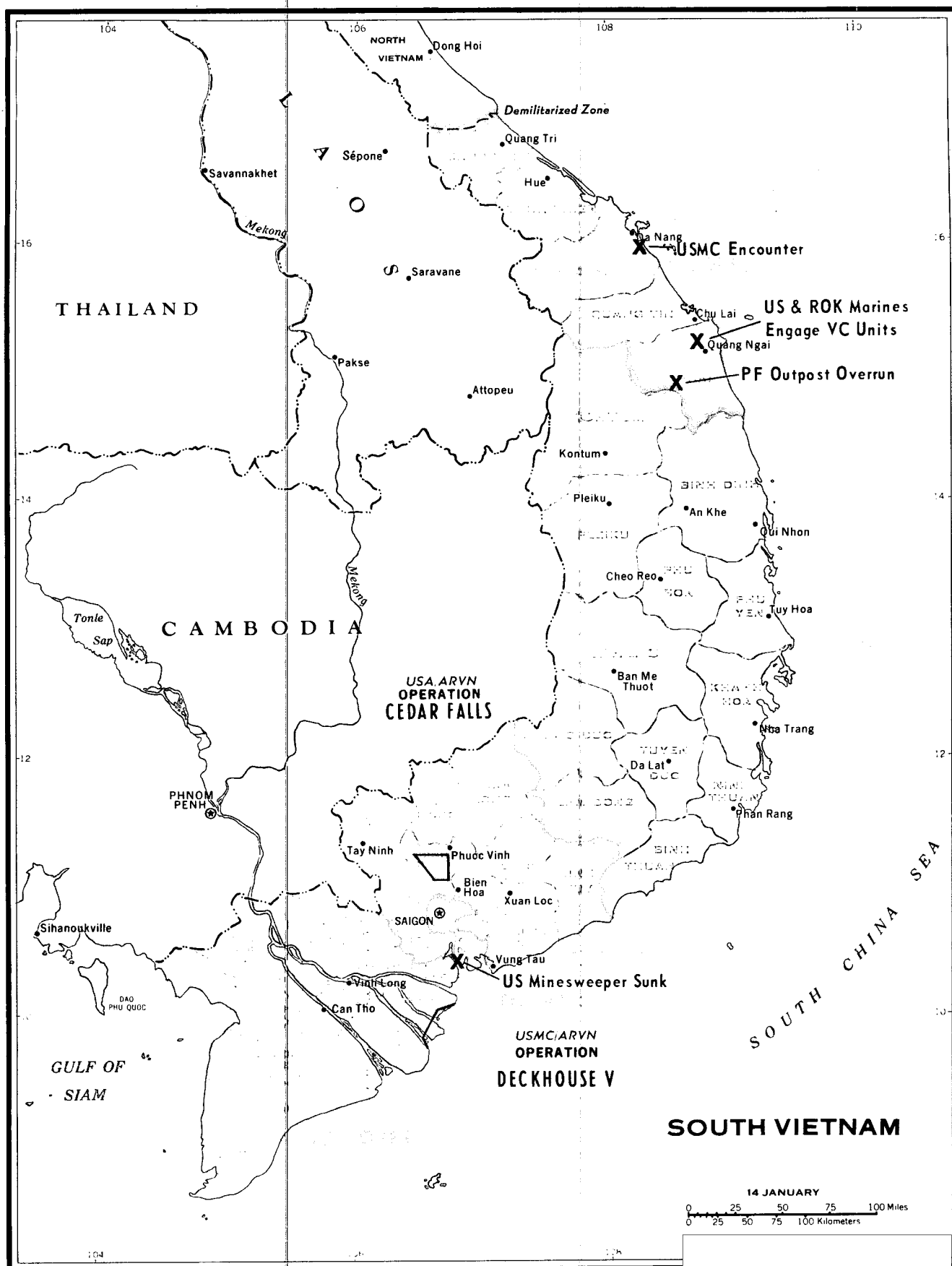
V. Communist Political Developments: A recent article in a North Vietnamese journal admitted that US air strikes have created difficulties in production and transportation (Paras. 1-2). Hanoi has issued several statements attacking Thailand for its part in the Vietnam war. (Paras. 3-4).

25X1

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics
1963 through the week of 1-7 Jan 67
- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

15 January 1967



25X1

I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. US Marine units operating in Quang Nam Province on 13 January became involved in a prolonged engagement with an unknown enemy force at a village about 12 miles south-southeast of Da Nang. In the six hour fire fight, five marines were killed and 23 wounded; enemy losses were placed at 61 dead and one suspect detained. In separate instances also on 13 January, a total of 21 marines were killed by enemy booby traps and mines within a nine mile radius of Da Nang.

2. In Quang Ngai Province, US and Korean marine units had a series of encounters with the enemy in an area about 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai city on 13 January. The allied units killed 90 of the enemy and destroyed 21 sampans with no friendly losses. In another incident in Quang Ngai on 15 January, however, Communist forces overran a Popular Force outpost, killing 23 and wounding 12 of the defenders. A reaction force found the area deserted by the enemy, but noted many blood trails indicative of VC casualties.

3. Allied units involved in Operation CEDAR FALLS met only scattered resistance from enemy units over the weekend as they continued to sweep the Communists' "Iron Triangle" stronghold in Binh Duong Province. US casualties now stand at 39 killed and 200 wounded in the week-old search-and-destroy operation. The 23-battalion allied force has so far killed 395 Viet Cong, taken 68 prisoners, and detained 427 suspects.

4. US and South Vietnamese marine units in Operation DECK HOUSE V experienced no significant contact with the enemy over the weekend and began a tactical withdrawal from the coastal area of Kien Hoa Province on 15 January. The amphibious operation into the Mekong Delta, which began on 6 January, accounted for 21 VC dead, 14 captured, and 57 suspects detained. Friendly losses were eight killed and 42 wounded.

15 January 1967

I-1

5. A US minesweeper (MSB) operating in the Long Tau shipping channel 25 miles southeast of Saigon was rammed and sunk by the Norwegian merchant ship Mui Finn on 14 January. Three of the seven Americans on board were reported missing and two are wounded. The MSB, now under 30 feet of water, will not curtail shipping to and from Saigon.

Infiltration of South Vietnam Trebles in 1966

6. Total known or reported infiltration of North Vietnamese forces into South Vietnam during 1966 was more than three times greater than for any previous year. As of 4 January 1967 a total of 74,608 men had been accounted for in all three of the infiltration categories. They are broken down as follows:

Confirmed:	38,184	
Probable:	10,178	Total of confirmed and probable -
		48,362
Possible:	26,246	

7. The figures now available for 1966 actually reflect only the first nine months of 1966 since MACV's infiltration statistics carry a three month arbitrary time lag. Thus the monthly average number of men coming into South Vietnam during the first nine months of 1966 was approximately 7,700 per month. It is important to remember that this is not a rate of infiltration but merely an average. For example, the total of infiltration for April 1966 was only 901 men in all three categories. By the same token, some 14,761 men were accepted as having infiltrated in March, while some 9,155 men were noted in May 1966.

8. Despite the limited evidence available for October-December 1966, it appears that infiltration in the last three months of this year may have markedly declined over that of the first nine months. It will not be possible to say with complete confidence that it did, indeed, drop off

15 January 1967

until the early spring of this year when a sufficient amount of time will have elapsed to gather information on the last quarter of 1966. It does appear, however, that no new division-level North Vietnamese units have been sent South since the 341st moved across the Demilitarized Zone in August.

9. A drop in the infiltration of large, regular North Vietnamese units would be in keeping with an apparent decision taken some time this summer by the Communists to re-emphasize smaller scale actions and to de-emphasize regimental and multiregimental operations. A continued flow of filler personnel and specialized units can be expected. The total numbers involved will depend on the needs of the Communist forces in the South.

Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

10. The week of 1-7 January compared with 25-31 December.

I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
25-31 Dec	27	0	0
1-7 Jan	21	0	0

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
25-31 Dec	1	397	31
1-7 Jan	3	391	35

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
25-31 Dec	27	39	154	675
1-7 Jan	16	42	180	685

15 January 1967

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>
Killed	882	626	146	120
Wounded	---	---	385	300
Missing/ Captured	<u>113</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>31</u>
TOTALS	995	781	545	451

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>
Killed	128	67	3	3
Wounded	630	479	9	7
Missing/ Captured	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	758	548	12	10

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>	<u>25-31 Dec</u>	<u>1-7 Jan</u>
Individual	358	Not	89	104
Crew-Served	<u>24</u>	Reported	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	382		89	107

15 January 1967

25X1

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

25X1

15 January 1967

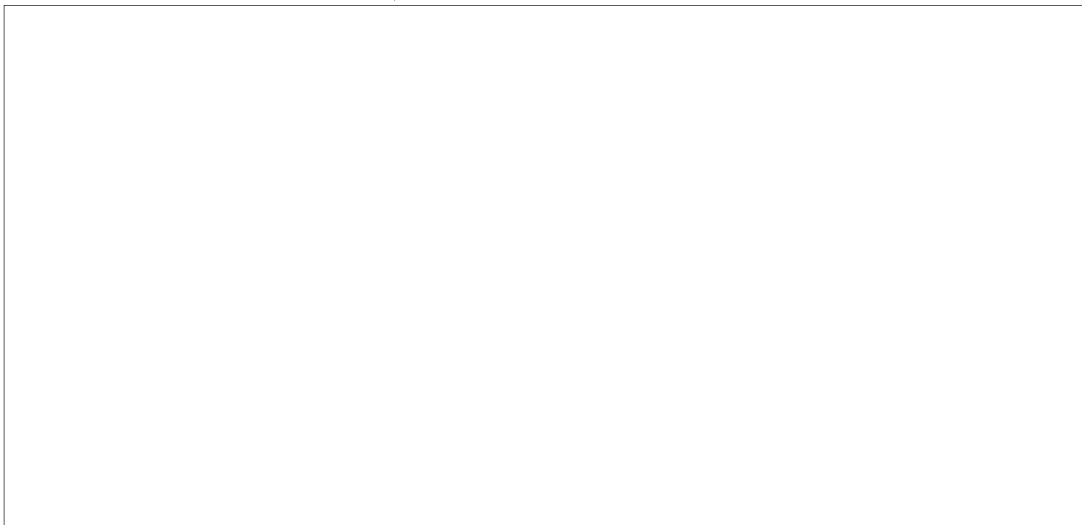
II-1

25X1

25X1



25X1

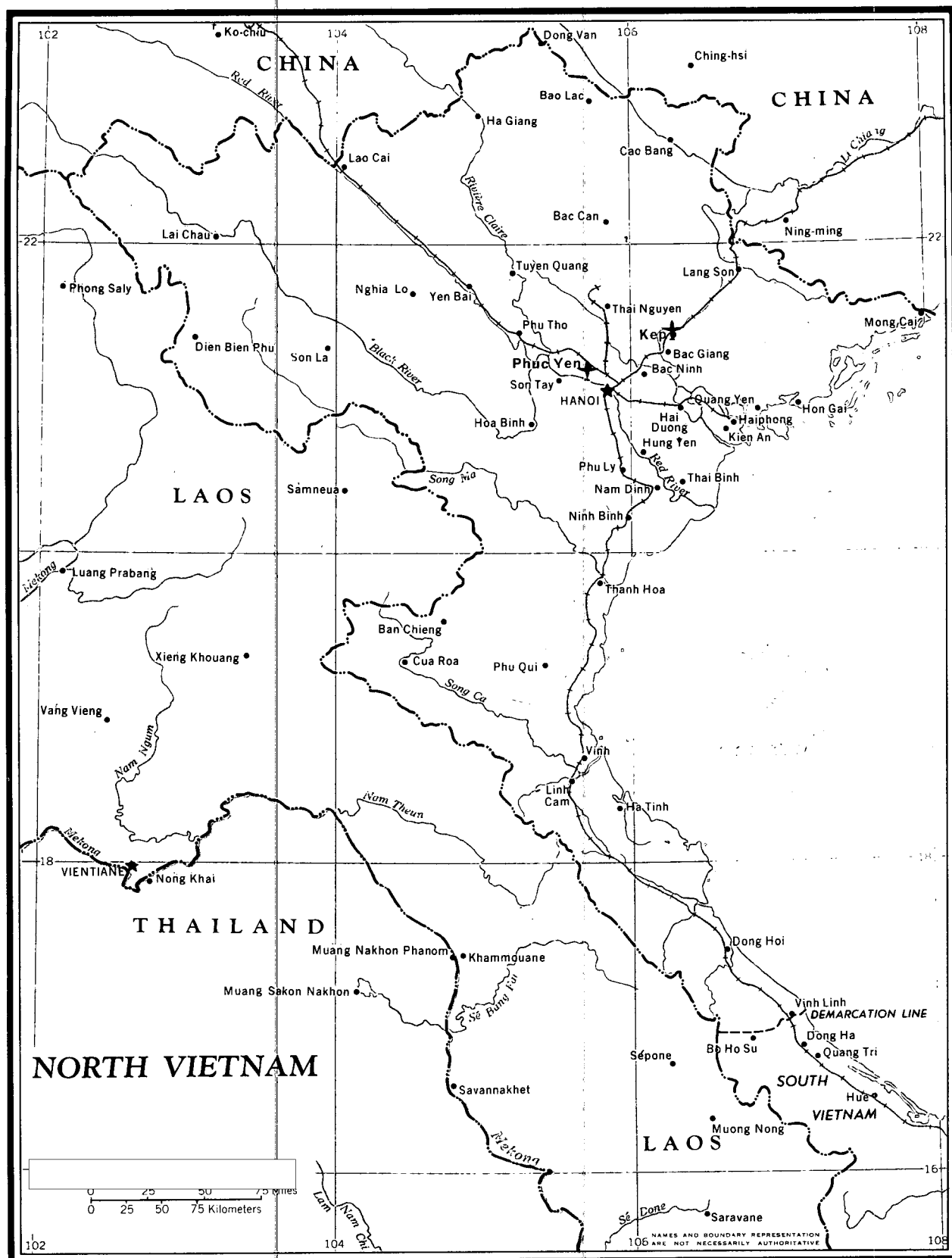


4. Commenting upon the draft constitution which the Constituent Assembly is scheduled to begin debating on 16 January, the US Embassy believes that only the final chapter, transforming the assembly into an interim legislature pending new assembly elections, is likely to be a cause of serious friction with the Directorate. A number of other "basic principles" adopted earlier by the assembly--such as those barring the military from elective office, empowering the legislature to dismiss the cabinet, and providing for the election of province chiefs--have been softened by the drafting committee and no longer seem to impose insuperable obstacles to Directorate approval. The embassy believes that further revisions of the draft to make it acceptable to the military are in process this weekend, even before the debate opens, and that there is still room for a possible compromise on the controversial article on transitional proceedings.

15 January 1967

25X1





65415 1-67 CIA

25X1

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

25X1

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

15 January 1967

IV-1

25X1

[REDACTED]

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. A recent article in the North Vietnamese party theoretical journal admitted that US air strikes have created "a certain number of difficulties in the production and transportation of goods." It stated that some confusion and losses have taken place in the reorientation of agricultural and industrial production on the local level. There is no indication from other sources, however, that these problems have become insurmountable.

[REDACTED]

25X1

2. The article in the theoretical journal is in keeping with a current propaganda campaign by the Hanoi regime to prepare the party cadre for what the North Vietnamese leaders apparently believe is likely to be a particularly tough year. A series of public statements by top leaders in recent weeks has hit hard on the theme that in 1967 the North Vietnamese people will be called upon for greater sacrifices to support the war. Although these warnings have been accompanied by predictions of great victories, the over-all tone is that things may get worse before they get better.

DRV Concerned Over Thai Involvement in War

3. Hanoi is maintaining a drumbeat of propaganda against what it believes is increasing Thai involvement in the Vietnam war. On 13 January, Hanoi radio publicized a book issued on 10 January by the DRV Foreign Ministry containing "documents on the collusion" between the Thai and US governments in waging war in Vietnam. Hanoi followed the release of this book with a Foreign Ministry statement on 14 January protesting the alleged concurrence by the Thai Government in the dispatch of US B-52 strategic bombers to Thailand.

15 January 1967

V-1

[REDACTED]

25X1

4. The statement called the alleged Thai agreement "an act of war" against North Vietnam and warned that "the Vietnamese people are determined to take necessary measures against this unwarranted act." Although the threat contained in this statement is still vague, it is somewhat stiffer than other recent admonitions by Hanoi against Thai involvement in Vietnam.

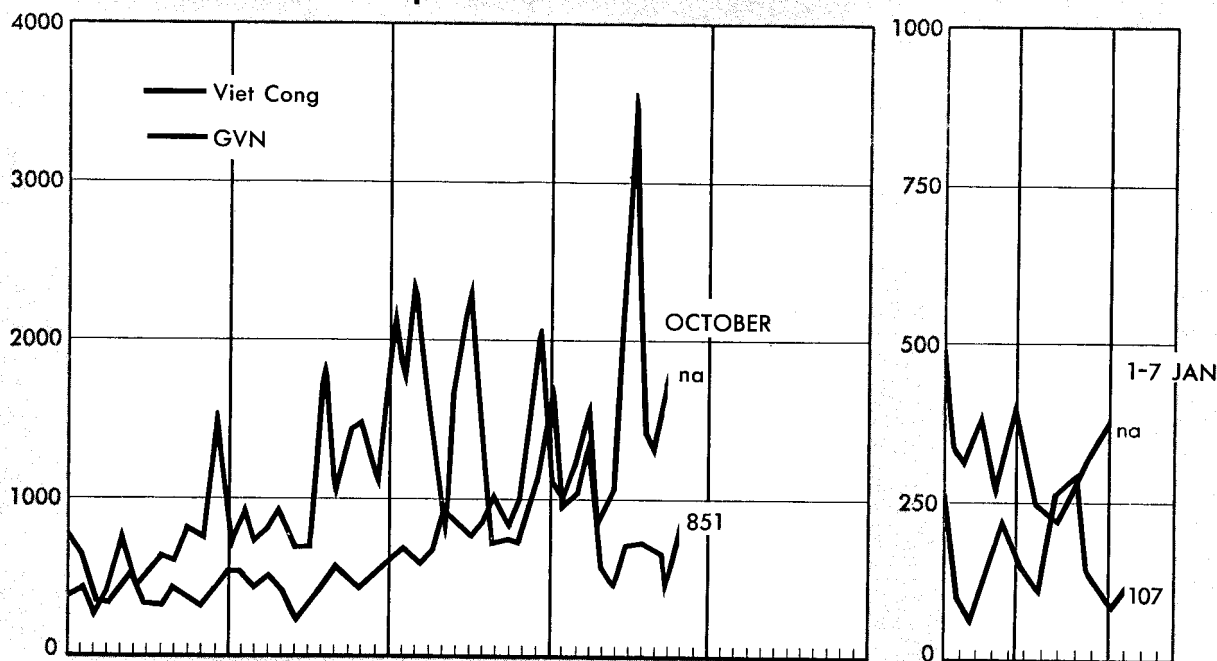
15 January 1967

V-2

25X1

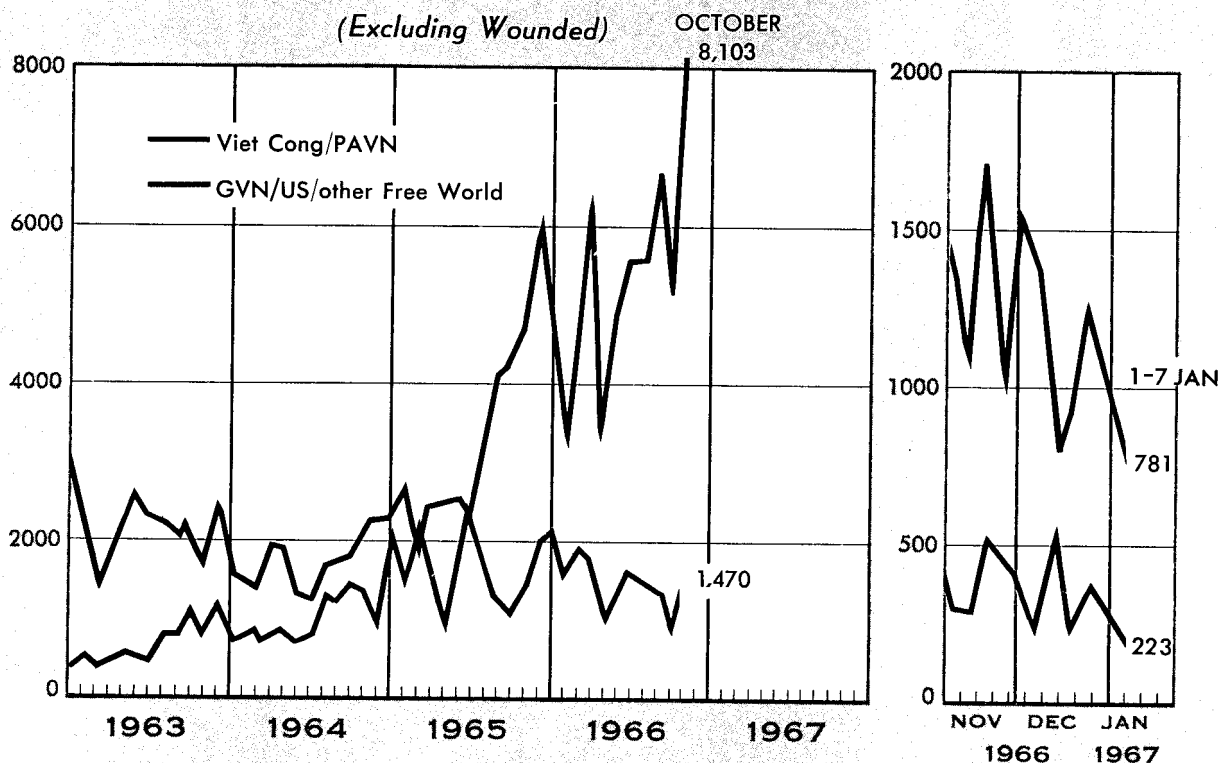
Weapons Losses

25X1



Personnel Losses

(Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 6,711 Wounded 38,217 Captured 99 Missing 375

25X1

